

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Emmerson

December 4, 2006

An act to amend Section 1973 of, and to add Section 1716.5 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to dentistry, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 17, as introduced, Emmerson. California Dental Corps Loan Repayment Program of 2002: fees.

Existing law, the Dental Practice Act, establishes the California Dental Corps Loan Repayment Program of 2002. Under existing law, the program provides financial incentives, as specified, to a dentist for practicing in a dentally underserved community. Existing law creates the Dentally Underserved Account for the purposes of the program in the State Dentistry Fund. Under existing law, specified moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to repay loans per agreements with dentists who practice in underserved areas.

This bill would require the board to assess an applicant a \$50 fee for the issuance or renewal of a dentistry license. The bill would specify that payment of the fee is voluntary and would direct the deposit of the fees received by the board into the Dentally Underserved Account for the California Dental Corps Loan Repayment Program of 2002. The bill would continuously appropriate all funds in the account to repay loans per agreements with dentists who practice in underserved areas. Because this bill would continuously appropriate new moneys, this bill would make an appropriation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1716.5 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:
3 1716.5. (a) In addition to the fees charged for the initial
4 issuance or biennial renewal of a dentistry license, and at the time
5 those fees are charged, the board shall charge each applicant or
6 renewing licensee an additional fifty dollar (\$50) fee for the
7 purposes of this section.
8 (b) Payment of this fifty dollar (\$50) fee shall be voluntary, and
9 shall be paid at the time of application for initial licensure or
10 biennial renewal. The fifty dollar (\$50) fee shall be due and payable
11 along with the fee for the initial license or biennial renewal.
12 (c) The board shall transfer all funds collected pursuant to this
13 section, on a monthly basis, to the Dentally Underserved Account
14 created by Section 1973 for the California Dental Corps Loan
15 Repayment Program of 2002.
16 SEC. 2. Section 1973 of the Business and Professions Code is
17 amended to read:
18 1973. (a) The Dentally Underserved Account is hereby created
19 in the State Dentistry Fund.
20 (b) The sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) is hereby
21 authorized to be expended from the State Dentistry Fund on this
22 program. These moneys are appropriated as follows:
23 (1) One million dollars (\$1,000,000) shall be transferred from
24 the State Dentistry Fund to the Dentally Underserved Account on
25 July 1, 2003. Of this amount, sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000)
26 shall be used by the Dental Board of California in the 2003–04
27 fiscal year for operating expenses necessary to manage this
28 program.
29 (2) One million dollars (\$1,000,000) shall be transferred from
30 the State Dentistry Fund to the Dentally Underserved Account on
31 July 1, 2004. Of this amount, sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000)
32 shall be used by the Dental Board of California in the 2004–05
33 fiscal year for operating expenses necessary to manage this
34 program.

1 (3) One million dollars (\$1,000,000) shall be transferred from
2 the State Dentistry Fund to the Dentally Underserved Account on
3 July 1, 2005. Of this amount, sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000)
4 shall be used by the Dental Board of California in the 2005–06
5 fiscal year for operating expenses necessary to manage this
6 program.

7 (c) Funds placed into the Dentally Underserved Account shall
8 be used by the board to repay the loans per agreements made with
9 dentists.

10 (1) Funds paid out for loan repayment may have a funding match
11 from foundation or other private sources.

12 (2) Loan repayments may not exceed one hundred five thousand
13 dollars (\$105,000) per individual licensed dentist.

14 (3) Loan repayments may not exceed the amount of the
15 educational loans incurred by the dentist applicant.

16 (d) Notwithstanding Section 11005 of the Government Code,
17 the board may seek and receive matching funds from foundations
18 and private sources to be placed into the Dentally Underserved
19 Account. The board also may contract with an exempt foundation
20 for the receipt of matching funds to be transferred to the Dentally
21 Underserved Account for use by this program.

22 (e) Funds in the Dentally Underserved Account ~~appropriated~~
23 ~~in subdivision (b) or received pursuant to subdivision (d)~~ are
24 continuously appropriated for the repayment of loans per
25 agreements made between the board and the dentists.